

**The Sun Today**, by Claudio Vita-Finzi (Springer), 2018. Pp. 111, 23·5 × 15·5 cm. Price £9·99/\$12·99 (paperback; ISBN 978 3 030 04078 9).

This new concise book by Claudio Vita-Finzi from the Natural History Museum, London, summarizes our present knowledge of the Sun and its interaction with the environment: interplanetary, the Earth and the other planets, and interstellar medium. The most important data obtained from ground, and space-borne instruments are nicely presented in many carefully selected graphs and images. Each of seven short chapters is followed by extensive list of references covering not only the most recent observations, but also historical ones. This provides the necessary context illustrating changing ideas and important steps in our understanding of the Sun as a star and ever-changing source of energy (electromagnetic & particles) for our Solar System. The book is eloquently written and wherever possible addresses existing problems in understanding basic processes driving solar radiation, particle and magnetic fluence. In Chapter 5, ‘The Solar Furnace’, the author speculates on the new (besides wave or magnetic) mechanisms of heating the outer solar plasma layers — the corona — to temperatures above million degrees. This may give rise to discourse within the solar-physics community.

I would recommend the book to geo- and helio-physicists who already are somewhat familiar with the subject as the book encapsulates our present knowledge on our closest star that creates the environment supporting our existence and driving dynamics on Earth. The book is tarnished only by a number of editorial mistakes. — JANUSZ SYLWESTER.